AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11.   (Withdrawn) A mail processing system comprising:

a postage verifier having an output;

a reverter orienting mail received from the output of the postage verifier;

a first mail carrying module configured to receive oriented ail from the reverter;

a transport configured to receive mail from the first mail carrying module;

a second mail carrying module configured to receive mail from the transport; and

a mail sorter configured to receive mail from the second mail carrying module.

12.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the transport is positioned at a height above the output of the postage verifier.

13.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12 wherein the first mail carrying module carries the oriented mail upward from the reverter to the transport and wherein the second mail carrying module carries the mail downward from the transport to an input of the mail sorter.

14.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein said reverter orients all mail pieces in a same configuration.

15.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14 wherein said reverter orients all mail pieces with postage leading.

16.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the first mail carrying module, the transport, and the second mail carrying module include a pair of pinch belts.

17.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 further comprising one or more stackers for receiving mail from the reverter.

18.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 further comprising one or more stackers for receiving mail from the second mail carrying module.

19.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18 wherein said one or more stackers feed mail to the mail sorter.

20.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the transport is positioned at a height of an output of the postage verifier.

21.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the postage verifier is an advanced facer canceler system/input subsystem having a optical character reader and the mail sorter is a delivery bar code sorter/output subsystem.

22.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 21 further including a data control system and a database, wherein said optical character reader reviews address information on mail pieces and forwards bar code data to the database.

23.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 wherein the delivery bar code sorter/output subsystem obtains bar code data from the database for printing on mail pieces.

24   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 wherein the delivery bar code sorter/output subsystem further includes a feeder and accepts mail from both the feeder and the second mail carrying module.

25.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 24 further including a machine control system for controlling whether the delivery bar code sorter processes mail from one of the second mail carrying module and the feeder.

26.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 further including stackers for receiving mail from the second mail carrying module, wherein a machine control system directs the second mail carrying module to deposit mail in the stackers when the delivery bar code sorter is disabled.

27.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 further including stackers for receiving mail from the reverter, wherein a machine control system directs the reverter to deposit mail in the stackers when the first mail carrying module is disabled.

28.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing mail pieces through a postage verifier having an optical character reader, mail interface system, and a mail sorter, said mail interface system having an upward module carrying mail pieces up to an overhead transport positioned at a height above an output of the postage verifier, and a downward module carrying mail pieces down from the overhead transport to the mail sorter, said method comprising:

verifying and canceling postage by the postage verifier;

positioning mail pieces output from the postage verifier in a same configuration in a single file line;

directing the mail pieces up the upward module;

directing the mail pieces through the overhead transport;

directing the mail pieces down the downward module to [[a]] the mail sorter; and

sorting the mail pieces based on destination.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 further comprising:

decoding address information on mail pieces that are determined not to include a bar code; and

sending bar code data corresponding to the decoded address and a mail piece identifier to a database.

30.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein sorting further comprises

determining whether mail pieces include a bar code;

querying the database using a mail identifier to obtain bar code data for mail pieces without a bar code;

printing obtained bar codes onto corresponding mail pieces; and

placing mail in stacks associated with a destination designated in bar codes on the mail pieces.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein positioning mail pieces includes positioning mail pieces with a stamp leading.

32.   (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein said optical character reader reviews address information on mail pieces and forwards bar code data to a database.

33.   (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the mail sorter obtains bar code data from the database for printing on mail pieces.

34.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 further including selectively feeding mail into the mail sorter from a feeder and the ~~second mail carrying~~ downward module.

35.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein directing mail pieces up [[an]] the upward module comprises directing mail of a specific type up the upward module and directing mail pieces of a different type into one or more stackers.

36.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein directing mail pieces up [[an]] the upward module comprises diverting mail to one or more stackers when an error occurs downline from the upward module.

37.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein directing mail pieces down [[a]] the downward module includes directing mail pieces into one or more stackers when the mail sorter is unavailable.

38. (New) A method for connecting a delivery item processing machine to a sorter comprising:

receiving a delivery item from an output of the delivery item processing machine after the delivery item processing machine processes the delivery item;

transporting the received delivery item from the output of the delivery item processing machine to a first altitude that avoids interference with a work area via a processor-controlled mechanical subsystem;

transporting, at the first altitude, the delivery item beyond the work area via the processor-controlled mechanical subsystem;

transporting the delivery item from the first altitude to a second altitude via the processor-controlled mechanical subsystem; and

transporting the delivery item to an input of the sorter at the second altitude.

39. (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising:

orienting the delivery item to face in a predetermined direction.

40. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the first altitude is sufficient to allow a pedestrian to pass between the delivery item processing machine and the sorter without interfering with transporting the delivery item.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the first altitude is at least six feet above a floor level of the work area.

42. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the first altitude is below a floor level of the work area.

44. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the delivery item processing machine is a delivery fee verifier; and

wherein receiving the delivery item comprises:

receiving the delivery item from an output of the delivery fee verifier after the delivery fee verifier verifies a delivery fee indicia on the delivery item.

45. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the delivery item processing machine is an address encoder; and

wherein receiving the delivery item comprises:

receiving the delivery item from an output of the address encoder after the address encoder places a delivery code on the delivery item based on an address on the delivery item.